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19

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310



IN REPLY REFER TO

AGAM-P (M) (6 Mar 68) FOR OT RD-674004

8 March 1968

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 3d
Battalion, 18th Artillery, Period Ending 31 October 1967 (U)

SEE DISTRIBUTION

1. Subject report is forwarded for review and evaluation in accordance with paragraph 5b, AR 525-15. Evaluations and corrective actions should be reported to ACSFOR OT RD, Operational Reports Branch, within 90 days of receipt of covering letter.
2. Information contained in this report is provided to insure appropriate benefits in the future from lessons learned during current operations and may be adapted for use in developing training material.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

Kenneth G. Wickham

KENNETH G. WICKHAM
Major General, USA
The Adjutant General

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1

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 3d Battalion, 18th Artillery

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 3D BATTALION, 18TH ARTILLERY
APO San Francisco 96374

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10 November 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 October
1967, Reports Control Symbol CSFOR-65

THRU: Commanding Officer
AMERICAL Division Artillery
ATTN: S-3
APO 96374

THRU: Commanding General
AMERICAL Division
ATTN: G-3
APO 96374

THRU: Commanding General
United States Army Vietnam
ATTN: AVHGS-DST
APO 96375

THRU: Commander-in-Chief
United States Army Pacific
ATTN: GPOF-OF
APO 96558

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development
Department of the Army (ACSFOR, DA)
Washington, D.C. 20310

SECTION I

SIGNIFICANT ORGANIZATION AND UNIT ACTIVITIES

1. (U) Administration and Personnel

- a. The 3d Battalion, 18th Artillery remains attached to the
AMERICAL Division.

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4

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10 November 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 October 1967, Reports Control Symbol CSFOR-65

b. Normal S-1 activities have been conducted during the period 1 August through 31 October 1967.

c. Personnel strength of the command on 31 October 1967 was;

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>TOE AUTH</u>			<u>ASSIGNED</u>		
	<u>OFF</u>	<u>WO</u>	<u>EM</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>WO</u>	<u>EM</u>
Headquarters Battery	23	1	146	14	2	113
B Battery	3	0	110	5	0	100
C Battery	3	0	110	5	0	93
Service Battery	3	3	68	3	3	63
TOTALS	32	4	434	28	5	369

d. Critical MOS Shortages: During the reporting period certain key MOS shortages were experienced in the battalion. Those shortages include: Cannoneers (13A10), Field Artillery Section Chiefs (13B40), Motor Sergeants (63C40), Mechanics and Maintenance Personnel (63A and 63B), Medical Personnel (91A and 91B), Mess Sergeants (94B) and Cooks (94A and 94B). MOS shortages indicated above are on requisition; orders are received periodically however replacements do not always follow.

e. Personnel changes during this quarter include:

<u>GAINS:</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>WO</u>	<u>EM</u>	<u>LOSS:</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>WO</u>	<u>EM</u>
	15	2	65		12	0	98

f. Casualties included:

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>
Killed in action	0
Wounded in action	0
Missing in action	0
Non-Battle Dead	0
Non-Battle Casualties	5

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5
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AVGG-BG

SUBJECT:

Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 October
2001, Air Force Control Symbol C000066

10 November 1967

g. Awards and decorations to members of this command included:

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>
Silver Star	2
Legion of Merit	0
Bronze Star (Valor)	4
Bronze Star (Merit)	9
Air Medal (Merit)	3
Air Medal (Oak Leaf Cluster)	2
Commendation Medal (Valor)	3
Commendation Medal (Merit)	1
Purple Heart	0

NOTE: In addition to these awards, thirty-two (32) recommendations for awards have been submitted and are pending approval.

h. R&R Program schedules include the following:

(1) The In-Country R&R consisting of 3 day passes to VUNG TAU and CHINA BEACH have been utilized by 14 personnel.

(2) The Out-of-Country R&R included the following quotas:

<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>Aug</u>	<u>Sep</u>	<u>Oct</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Bangkok	9	11	12	32
Tokyo	4	6	1	11
Manila	2	1	3	6
Hong Kong	7	5	2	14
Taipei	8	7	10	25
Singapore	3	2	1	6
Kuala Lumpur	3	1	0	4
Penang	3	5	0	8

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6

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AVGG-80

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 October 1967, Report Control Symbol C-100-6

10 November 1967

<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>Aug</u>	<u>Sep</u>	<u>Oct</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Hawaii	8	12	9	29
Sydney	0	0	4	4

i. Judicial and Non-Judicial actions by units included:

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>ARTICLE 15</u>	<u>SUMMARY COURT</u>	<u>SPECIAL COURT</u>	<u>GENERAL COURT</u>
Headquarters Battery	15	0	0	0
B Battery	4	0	1	0
C Battery	2	0	1	0
Service Battery	2	0	0	0
TOTALS	23	0	2	0

j. Pertinent medical service statistics include:

Total patient visits (unit personnel)	201
Admitted to hospital	20
Evacuated within the country	8
Evacuated out of country	3
Malaria cases	2

k. Reportable accidents included:

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>VEHICLE</u>	<u>AIRCRAFT</u>	<u>PERSONNEL</u>
Headquarters Battery	0	0	3
B Battery	1	0	0
C Battery	0	0	0
Service Battery	0	0	2
TOTAL	1	0	5

l. The morale of the command is outstanding. USO Beach facilities at CHU LAI are available and used by the battalion.

4

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7
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AVGG-BG

9 November 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 October 1967, Reported Control Symbol CSEMA-65

m. Educational opportunities for personnel are provided through the AMERICAL Education Center.

(1) The Education Center offers more than 200 correspondence courses from the United States Armed Forces Institute (USAFI) and over 6,000 more from participating colleges at the high school, college and technical levels.

(2) The center provides classroom instruction and language laboratory facilities. High school-level English, math, social studies, and natural science courses are planned for the future. Also, residence college level courses leading to a baccalaureate degree are offered by the University of Maryland, Far East Division, at the AMERICAL Education Center. Vietnamese language courses are also available.

(3) Other services available are GED and Comprehensive College Testing, information of the education benefits under the GI Bill and information concerning colleges and schools across the United States.

n. Religious services, both Protestant and Catholic, are conducted weekly at battery sites. Jewish services are conducted in the CHU LAI area weekly. Batteries at remote sites are not afforded Jewish services except by special arrangement.

o. Throughout the battalion emphasis on personal hygiene, prophylactic usage and frequent lectures on venereal diseases have helped in lowering the VD rate. The battery commanders, surgeon and chaplain complement each other's efforts in their approach to this problem.

2. (C) Intelligence:

a. Observation and Surveillance:

(1) Ground OP's: OP#1, located on NUI TRON Mountain (BS 516778) was manned by battalion personnel throughout the reporting period and provided excellent observation of a large part of the SONG TRA KHUC Valley. OP#2, also manned by battalion personnel, was established at AN HOA (BT 474863) on 15 September 1967 and has since augmented the observation capability of OP#1 in the SONG TRA BONG Valley. The main source of positive surveillance, however, continues to be aerial observation provided by AMERICAL Division Artillery.

(2) The Counter-Mortar Information Center, operated in the Battalion FDC throughout the quarter, coordinates counter-mortar and counter-rocket fire missions as part of the CHU LAI defense. Its information comes from a flash base consisting of seven flash OP's on a 25-kilometer line running parallel to the coast. Two of the flash OP's are manned by battalion personnel.

CONFIDENTIAL

8

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AVGG-BG

30 November 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarter: Reporting Period Ending 31 October 1967, Reports Control Symbol CSMR-65

b. Counterintelligence Inspections: Three CI inspections were conducted during the quarter. The inspection by Task Force OREGON G2 on 25 August 1967 and the inspection by AMERICAL Division Artillery S2 on 12 October 1967, both were satisfactory with no significant deficiencies. Formal report of the inspection by AMERICAL G2 on 25 October 1967 as part of the AGI has not been received, but is expected to indicate further improvement.

c. Six squad-size reconnaissance patrols were conducted in the area around the battalion headquarters base camp perimeter during the reporting period. On one of these, two persons were seen running from the patrol party. A total of 13 persons were detained by the patrols for lack of proper identification and were placed in the custody of LY TIN District police.

3. (U) Training:

a. A revamped training program was established in the battalion during the quarter under the guidelines of USARV Regulation 350-1 (Education and Training). Its purpose was to establish an effective training program to include both management and administration. It was so planned that maximum latitude was afforded the battery commander in implementing the program consistent with tactical commitments. The objectives of the program were to establish "on the job training" and cross training, replacement training, and required mandatory training.

(1) On the job training and individual cross training continues throughout the battalion. All sections receive at least two hours of section training daily in order that they retain their job proficiency. Cross training is carried out to a great extent, especially in closely related fields. (e.g. Survey personnel are trained in FDC, communications personnel are trained in both wire and radio, ammunition handlers are trained in preparing a howitzer for action, etc.) The cross training program in the battalion has been extremely worthwhile during the previous quarter due to the fact that many key enlisted positions have been filled by battalion trained replacements.

(2) In the area of replacement training, all newcomers to the battalion are now attending the "Charger Academy" of the 196th Light Infantry Brigade. The course lasts for a period of six days and covers all the required replacement training subjects listed in USARV Regulation 350-1. In addition, all individuals are given a thorough orientation on the policies of the battalion and battery by respective battery commanders upon assignment.

(3) The following periods of mandatory training were conducted during the reporting period:

6

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9

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AVGG-30

10 November 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 October 1967, Report Control Symbol CS-00-65

- (a) Command Informations: 13 hours
- (b) Character Guidance: 3 hours
- (c) Code of Conduct: 1 hour
- (d) Armed Forces Censorship: 1 hour
- (e) Surveillance and Listening Devices: 1 hour
- (f) SAEDA: 1 hour
- (g) Safeguarding Defense Information: 1 hour
- (h) CBR Refresher: 1 hour
- (i) Geneva Convention: 1 hour
- (j) Individual and Crew Served Weapon Firing: all

individuals

b. During the quarter, the battalion assisted in the setup of Division level schools as well as the normal battalion level schools.

(1) From 31 July through 4 August, an officer-NCO Fire Direction Course was conducted covering all aspects of gunnery at the supervisors level. It reviewed the safety of field artillery fire direction peculiar to the Vietnam environment. Six persons working in supervisory positions in the battalion attended the course.

(2) During the last week of August, the battalion sponsored the FADAC Team from the Army Materiel Command. The team presented a course of instruction to all artillery battalions in the I Corps area on the operation and maintenance of FADAC. Nine personnel from the battalion attended the course.

(3) During the month of September a 20 hour Generator Operators and Organisational Maintenance course was presented to members of the battalion by the 188th Maintenance Battalion, at the request of the battalion. Eleven personnel from the battalion attended.

(4) From 4 through 9 September, the battalion conducted a cross training Fire Direction Course for non-IDC type personnel. Eleven individuals attended the course, the majority of them being Survey personnel (MOS - 82C).

4. (C) Operations:

a. Normal operations consistent with the battalion's missions were conducted during the reporting period.

CONFIDENTIAL

10

CONFIDENTIAL

AVGG-80

10 November 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 October 1967, Reporting Control Symbol CSECR-65

b. The mission of the battalion remained the same; to provide general support, and reinforcing fires to the 3d Battalion, 82d Artillery in the CHU LAI area and reinforcing the fires of the 2d battalion, 9th Artillery in the DUC PHO area. In addition, the battalion answers calls for fire from the ROK Artillery of the 2d ROK Marine Brigade. At the close of the current reporting period, the battalion minus, (Battery A is attached to the 7th Battalion, 13th Artillery) with 1 OPCON 155mm Gun - 8 inch Howitzer USMC Battery remained attached to the AMERICAL Division. The number of days engaged in tactical operations during this reporting period were 92. At the present time, the battalion is positioned as follows:

(1) The Battalion Command Post, along with Headquarters Battery and Service Battery remained at Artillery Hill, near CHU LAI (BT 5104).

(2) Battery B, 3d Battalion, 18th Artillery is split into two platoons; the 175mm Gun Platoon being on Hill 29 BT 2231 and the 8 inch Platoon on Hill 63 BT 1345.

(3) Battery C, 3d Battalion, 18th Artillery remains in position near DUC PHO (BS 8138), under operational control of the 2d Battalion, 11th Artillery.

(4) The 5th Marine 155mm Gun Battery (Provisional) remains under OPCON of the battalion. It is located at BS 6385 and is composed of two 155mm Guns and two 8 inch Howitzers.

c. The following operations were participated in by units of the battalion during this reporting period.

(1) On 1 August both Battalion Headquarters (-) and Battery B along with Battery C, 3d Battalion, 16th Artillery (OPCON) displaced from their base camps to the SONG TRA BONG Valley (BS 4687) where a Fire Support Base was set up to support Operation Hood River, a joint RVN, ROK, and US operation. During the course of the operation the battalion supported elements of the 2d ROK Marine Brigade, the 2d ARVN Division, the 196th Light Infantry Brigade and the 1st Brigade of the 101st Airborne Division. The operation terminated on 13 August and all units returned to base camp. Upon closure Battery C, 3d Battalion, 16th Artillery was released from OPCON.

(2) On 13 August, upon closing in its base camp, Battery B became OPCON to the 3d Battalion, 16th Artillery in order to better support Operation Benton and Battery B, 3d Battalion, 16th Artillery became OPCON to this headquarters. The operation was terminated on 31 August and the control of the respective batteries returned to their parent units.

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10 November 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 October 1967, Reports Control Symbol CS-2-65

(3) From 2 through 10 September all batteries of the battalion participated in Operation Cook which was designed to give protection to all areas in the Division TAMOR during the national elections. On the night of 6 September, as part of this operation, the 175mm Guns of Battery B averted a highly possible overrun of the TAM KY Military Base. During the attack fire was requested by the USMC Advisors to the TAM KY Headquarters. As a result of the accurate and effective firepower, the attack ceased. Surveillance showed a 200 meter trench and bunkerline destroyed, 8 confirmed KIA's and 14 probable KIA's. The following day the battalion was complimented by the USMC and ARVN for the excellent fire support received in the defense of TAM KY.

(4) On 5 September, Operation Dragon Fire commenced in the 2d ROK Marine AO. The 5th USMC Gun Battery (Provisional), assisted by one 8 inch Howitzer and one 175mm Gun from Battery B, of this battalion, reinforced the fires of the ROK Artillery units. During the initial preparation 66 175mm and 8 inch rounds were expended in a period of 60 minutes. The coverage of the LZ was called excellent by the ROK's. The operation terminated on 30 October.

(5) On 11 September the 1st Brigade of the 101st Airborne Division began Operation Wheeler in the area to the west of TAM KY. This operation was supported by Battery B from their base camp. On 2 October the operation was extended to the west and north, and the 3d Brigade of the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) was given an area of operation in the northern sector, which was designated Operation Wallowa. In order to better support Operations Wheeler and Wallowa, Battery B's 175mm Gun Platoon was deployed to Hill 29 (BT 2231) on 2 October. At the close of this reporting period Battery B's 175mm Gun Platoon has fired over 2,500 Zone 3 rounds. This has required tremendous operational and logistical coordination, from the standpoint of maintaining required levels of ammunition, and parts, and the replacement of eight 175mm gun tubes, in a period of four weeks. Tubes were changed on site in battery positions. On 25 October, the 8 inch Howitzer Platoon of Battery B also moved north to Hill 29 to add to the fire power of the operation. The move was short-lived however, as the platoon moved further north to Hill 63 (BT 1345) on 27 October where it could better augment the 1st Battalion, 21st Artillery in the destruction of bunker complexes in the 3d Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) area of operation. As of the end of this reporting period, the operations are still in progress.

d. Significant Occurrences:

(1) On 3 August LTC Benjamin T. Meadows assumed command of the 3d Battalion, 18th Artillery. He succeeded LTC Richard L. Livermore.

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AVGG-83

10 November 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 October 1967, Reports Control Symbol CS1004-65

(2) On 1 September this battalion was issued three M-18 Computers (FADAC), one for the Battalion Fire Direction Center and one for each organic battery. As stated in paragraph 3b (2), nine personnel from the battalion were trained on the equipment for a period of one week. Considering the greater inherent accuracy and flexibility of FADAC, the battalion utilizes it as the primary method for obtaining firing data.

(3) On 12 September, the 5th Marine Gun Battery received two new M110 8 inch Howitzers to replace their inoperable M55 8 inch Howitzers.

(4) On 19 September, Major General Brown, the Commandant of the Artillery and Missile School, Fort Sill, visited the battalion. He spent some time in the new Battalion Operations Center paying particular attention to the Fire Direction Center Bunker. A brief orientation was presented by LTC Meadows on the current battalion mission, situation, the use of FADAC in the battalion, and the Battalion Counter Mortar Flash Base.

(5) On 6 October Brigadier General S. W. Koster, the Commanding General of the AMERICAL Division made his initial visit to the Battalion Headquarters and Operations Center. He was briefed on the current mission and situation of the battalion and given a tour of the operations area by the battalion commander. After departing, he visited the 175mm Gun Platoon of Battery B, participating in Operations Wheeler and Wallawa.

(6) From 23 through 27 October this battalion received its annual USARV Inspector General Inspection. Upon the conclusion of the inspection all areas were rated satisfactory.

(7) On 27 October the battalion fired its 200,000th round since arriving in country in October 1965. This is the equivalent of 17 1/2 thousand tons of metal or 1,060,000 rounds of 105mm ammunition. The round was fired in Battery C position area by Major General Koster, the Commanding General of the AMERICAL Division.

The missions, with total amounts of ammunition expended during this reporting period, are listed below:

UNIT	MISSIONS FIRED	AMMUNITION EXPENDED
Battery A	155	8 in 175 TOTAL
Battery B	2,930	3,691 3,106 6,797
Battery C	3,584	3,649 4,577 8,226

CONFIDENTIAL

13

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AVGG-BG

30 November 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 October 1967, Reports Control Symbol C8F04-65

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>MISSION FIRED</u>		<u>AMMUNITION EXPENDED</u>		
		<u>155</u>	<u>8 in</u>	<u>175</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
5th USMC	4,424	1,492	6,234		7,726
Battery C, 3d Bn, 16th Arty	57	727			727
Battery B, 3d Bn, 16th Arty	<u>778</u>	<u>2,247</u>			<u>2,247</u>
TOTALS	11,773	4,466	13,574	7,683	25,723

5. (U) Logistics:

a. The battalion carried on normal supply activities during this quarter.

b. On 16 September, all property remaining at the AN KHE base camp arrived in CHU LAI. All Battalion property accounts in AN KHE were closed.

c. As a result of Battery A being attached to the 7th Battalion, 13th Artillery at PHU CAT, they were issued their own property books and property accounts were opened under their Unit Identification Code.

d. The battalion was issued Cargo Carriers M548A1 as provided for by the TOE, and the personnel carriers M113 on hand were turned in.

e. Battery A located at PHU CAT was given the responsibility of maintaining its own Prescribed Load List at the time it initiated its own property accounts. Battery C located at DUC PHO has also been given its own Prescribed Load List responsibilities to enhance speed and simplicity in repairing equipment utilizing replacement parts.

f. Clothing records and forms, previously maintained at battalion level, have been returned to the batteries, returning the responsibility for clothing and TA50-901 to the Battery Commander.

g. Hand receipts, which numbered fifty at the end of the last reporting period, have been reduced to four. Battery commanders are signed for all property within the batteries from the Battalion Property Book Officer (less Battery A which maintains its own property books).

h. Critical shortages at the end of the reporting period are as follows:

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14

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AVOG-BG

31 November 1967

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<u>ITEM</u>	<u>QUANTITY</u>	<u>DOCUMENT NUMBER</u>
Truck, Utility $\frac{1}{2}$ ton	3 each	7276-0082
Tank Recovery M-88	1 each	7240-0061
Tank Unit, Liquid Dispensing	1 each	7303-0008
Trailer M-149	1 each	7176-0169
Radio Set AN/GRC 125	1 each	7176-0168

6. (U) Aviation: The following sorties were flown by the Battalion Aviation Section during the period 1 August through 31 October:

	<u>Search & Rescue</u>	<u>Cmd & Con</u>	<u>Recon</u>	<u>Arty Adj</u>	<u>Log</u>	<u>Pax</u>	<u>Ogo</u>	<u>Hours</u>
ROTARY WING	0	65	20	18	10	12	0	128
FIXED WING	0	12	52	54	6	14	0	138
TOTALS	0	77	72	72	16	26	0	266

7. (U) Civic Actions:

a. Civic Action Projects:

(1) In the area of economic aid, the battalion employs forty-one local nationals daily through the Assistance-In-Kind Program. These laborers are utilized in improving fortifications, cutting and trimming brush and in some instances, as ~~mess~~ attendants, where a health certificate can be obtained. This policy of using AIK Funds assists the local economy and relieves battalion personnel to perform more specialized functions.

(2) Edible waste is regularly delivered to the hamlet of LONG PHY I for livestock feeding. This aid enables the villagers to maintain more livestock than they would otherwise be able to feed.

(3) On 6 October COL Mason J. Young Jr. the Division Artillery Commander and LTC Meadows presented three General Walt Scholarships to deserving students in LONG PHU I. The awards were given to emphasize the importance of education to the people of the hamlet and to make it possible that three children could continue their education.

CONFIDENTIAL

15
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AVGG-BG

10 November 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 October 1967, Reports Control Symbol CSAR-65

(4) The battalion is currently in the process of organizing a brick making facility. The battalion has procured four brick making machines which have a total production capacity of about 800 bricks per day. Six Vietnamese from the village of LONG PHU I were recently hired for this activity and the first bricks are starting to be produced. The Vietnamese brickmakers will be paid a wage in foodstuffs which will be made available through the Civic Action Program by the District Coordinator at TAM KY. The bricks will be used for building projects in the local areas approved by the District Civic Action Leader.

b. MEDCAP Program:

(1) MEDCAP activities conducted by the battalion during the previous quarter have provided medical treatment for over 700 Vietnamese at LONG PHU I, LONG PHU II, and NUI TRON, one of the battalion's tactical OP's. The battalion surgeon visits these hamlets frequently and delivers authorized medical supplies to the battalion sponsored dispensaries at each. In addition, soap and other personal hygiene items are distributed on all MEDCAP missions, as one of the main objectives of MEDCAP is to eliminate many of the unsanitary conditions causing disease and sickness. The program is vitalized by personnel from the battalion accompanying the surgeon on these visits who distribute candy and soap and show an interest in the welfare of the people visited. The response to the program by the Vietnamese has been excellent.

8. (U) Communications:

a. During the month of September a restricted area was constructed as a protection for the battalion crypto facility. The area was inspected and approved by the AMERICAL Division Crypto Officer.

b. During the past quarter three inspections of the battalion communication section and facilities were conducted by higher headquarters. The results of the inspections were satisfactory.

c. A complete new wire circuit has been installed in the battalion headquarters base camp. This project also included a perimeter hot loop. Along with this, electric wiring has been installed in the new battalion command post and is presently being installed in the new mess hall and chapel.

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16
10 November 1967

SECTION II

PART I - OBSERVATIONS

1. (U) Personnel and Administration:

None.

2. (U) Intelligence:

None.

3. (U) Training and Organization:

a. Item: Company grade artillery officers are being assigned to units in Vietnam with little or no branch experience.

(1) Discussion:

(a) Due to the obvious lack of commissioned service, lieutenants must undergo vigorous training (OJT) before they meet the minimal requirements expected of officers who are to be entrusted with the immediate tactical responsiveness, firing accuracy, and safety of a unit in combat, i.e., XO, AXO, FDC. Dependent upon several variables such as time elapsed since formal schooling completed and prior branch immaterial assignments, the training time required to qualify a lieutenant to perform satisfactorily as a battery officer varies from three to five weeks.

(b) In the case of a captain, the same problems exist, but, by virtue of his grade he must be placed in a position demanding both increased proficiency and responsibility. Very little training time, as such, can be afforded for these officers. The very thought of a battery commander in an OJT status is repugnant to the professionalism long associated with artillerymen. As the senior artillerymen present in a fire support base however, he must be responsible for everything that his battery does or does not do.

(c) Many branch immaterial positions are being filled by junior artillery officers at a time in their career when a solid foundation in gunnery and maintenance must be established. More pointedly it is occurring immediately prior to their deployment to an artillery unit in combat. The officer input to this battalion over the previous three month period indicates that six of the last eleven lieutenants and two of the last three captains were assigned to positions in Infantry Basic Training Centers just prior to reporting for duty in Vietnam.

CONFIDENTIAL

17

CONFIDENTIAL

AVGG-BG

10 November 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 October 1967, Reports Control Symbol CSFOR-65

(2) Observation: It is a disservice to a man who has minimal technical knowledge and little or no practical experience concerning the application of artillery principles and procedures, to expect him to perform adequately when confronted with the multitude of complex situations that can be expected to arise in Vietnam.

b. Item: Non-commissioned officers in MOS 13B40 are being assigned to self-propelled, heavy artillery units with insufficient prior training.

(1) Discussion: The all encompassing 13B MOS does not currently identify those individuals who are qualified to function satisfactorily as chiefs of section of self-propelled artillery. Obviously, many of the principles are similar to light/medium towed artillery, but the greatest obstacle is in the field of carriage maintenance must be a daily, properly supervised function of the entire section. The "chief" is looked too as the most knowledgeable individual in the section, and in to many instances, is not. Many of the problems are complex in nature and completely unfamiliar to him. During the three to five weeks required to properly qualify the chief of section, the crew is inadequately supervised, marginal maintenance is performed, and the cohesiveness of a firing unit performing a combat mission is jeopardized.

(2) Observation: Non-commissioned officers within the 13B40 MOS are not knowledgeable or properly trained in heavy artillery or on the M107 and M110 series weapons prior to assignment.

4. (C) Operations:

a. Item: Pre-mature functioning of point detonating (PD) fuzes set on quick option while firing through the rain.

(1) Discussion: The M51A5, M557 and M508 fuzes are the PD fuzes with which this unit has experienced premature functioning while firing in the rain. Currently two alternatives are being utilized, neither of which is completely satisfactory:

(a) PD fuzes which offer the option are set on delay, (the M508 does not have this option).

(b) Employing mechanical time, super quick (MTSQ) fuzes in a PD role by setting a time in excess of the actual time of flight causing the backup impact action to function.

(2) Observation:

(a) If the PD fuze is used in the rain a situation arises which results in great danger to friendly troops due to the premature functioning of artillery shells.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

AVGG-BG

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 October 1967, Report Control Symbol CSFOR-67

November 1967

(b) If the delay option is chosen, a dud probability of as high as 50% can be expected.

b. Item: Weaknesses in the M110 and M107 Weapon Systems.

(1) Discussion: Due to the continuous heavy firing required in a combat situation great strain is placed on the M110 and M107 Weapon Systems. The carriage is not sufficiently durable or reliable to withstand the constant shock of firing. When problems arise in either the vehicle or artillery portion of the hydraulic system, the one hydraulic system concept causes both portions to be inoperable. Likewise, the heavy shock experienced, results in a splitting of the fuel tank. The tanks are continuously being welded and rewelded but fail again after periods of intense firing. Elevating and traversing motors and loader-rammers also experience failures with respect to electrical wiring harnesses, micro switches and hydraulics.

(2) Observations: The M107 and M110 weapon systems have experienced recurring weaknesses and require improvements in:

- (a) Fuel tank and system
- (b) Hydraulic system
- (c) Elevating and Traversing motor
- (d) Loader-rammer

5. (U) Logistics:

a. Item: Ammunition Supply Points:

(1) With the arrival of the monsoon season it has become more apparent that ammunition supply points are located too far from units being supplied. Road washouts or other conditions making roads impassable are a continuing factor that must be considered for effective ammunition resupply.

(2) Observation: Ammunition shortages could easily arise in the event the monsoon rains make either ground or aerial resupply impossible.

b. Item: Minor Replacement Parts:

(1) Discussion: The unavailability of parts and minor items such as tires and tubes, windshields, door glass, and brake fluid have either deadlined vehicles or greatly limited their use for extended periods of time.

CONFIDENTIAL

19

CONFIDENTIAL

AVGG-BG

10 November 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 October 1967, Reports Control Symbol CBR-65

(2) Observation: The nonavailability of repair parts and expendable items have increased vehicle deadline rates and downtime.

6. (U) Aviation:

None.

7. (U) Civic Actions:

a. Item: Interpreter

(1) Discussion: On many occasions the S-5, Surgeon, and other personnel in the battalion required the services of a qualified interpreter. Time and effort have been wasted by utilizing the AIK worker who is presently available.

(2) Observation: The battalion needs a qualified interpreter.

8. (U) Communications:

a. Item: Electrical problems on the DTT AN/GRC-46 when Security Equipment KW-7 is installed.

(1) Discussion: When the KW-7 is installed for on-line use in the AN/GRC-46, it continuously blows out the Junction Box after being in operation for one to two hours. The equipment has been turned into Division Maintenance but the problem still exists. The problem has been brought to the attention of the Division Artillery Communications Officer.

(2) Observation: Division Artillery has loaned this Unit an AN/GRC-46 which operates correctly. This set along with one of ours is now at maintenance and a comparison of the wiring is being made. The results are forthcoming. Evidently there is a fault in the wiring of the set which enables it to operate alone but causes a failure in the Junction Box when the KW-7 is installed.

CONFIDENTIAL

20

CONFIDENTIAL

AVGG-BG

20 November 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 October 1967, Reports Control Symbol CSFOR-65

SECTION III

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. (U) Personnel and Administration:

None.

2. (U) Intelligence:

None.

3. (U) Training and Organization:

a. That the amount of branch immaterial type assignments for junior officers, especially those earmarked for duty in Vietnam, be reduced.

b. That all captains and lieutenants scheduled for duty in Vietnam attend the newly created Field Artillery Officer Orientation Course at Fort Sill. That instruction in the course be directed toward the battery/battalion level with emphasis on gunnery, motor/artillery maintenance and battalion level fire planning. Maximum utilization of practical exercise and "on-equipment" type instruction should be stressed.

c. That chief of section requisitions for self-propelled heavy artillery be identified separately from light/modicum towed artillery requisitions.

d. That non-commissioned officers designated to fill self-propelled, heavy artillery requisitions attend the 8 inch/175mm Chief of Section Course at Fort Sill.

e. That as a long range program, a separate enlisted MOS be adopted which positively, identifies those personnel qualified in self-propelled, heavy artillery.

4. (C) Operations:

a. That a fuze be produced which will retain the sensitivity for super quick impact action and yet be fired safely in the rain.

b. That a more durable and reliable carriage be constructed to withstand the sustained firing shock of heavy artillery. In the case of leaking fuel tanks, a bladder or liner could be utilized within the vehicle fuel storage area. This would prove more resilient and better withstand the shocks of firing. Independent hydraulic systems would provide a more flexible system. Also heavy duty lines, fittings and pumps should be incorporated into the system.

CONFIDENTIAL

21
CONFIDENTIAL

AVGG-BG

10 November 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 October 1967, Reports Control Symbol: OSMR-67

5. (U) Logistics:

a. Recommend that Forward Supply Areas contain ammunition supply points that would make all caliber ammunition more accessible for units engaged in operations. A temporary ammunition supply point near the support base would allow for short shuttles by the batteries and reduce the danger of non-supply due to the weather and/or road conditions.

b. That support maintenance be authorized to stock greater numbers of minor items in their PLL to insure that they are always available.

6. (U) Aviation:

Nona.

7. (U) Civic Action: That the services of a qualified interpreter be procured for the battalion.

8. (U) Communications:

Nona.

Benjamin T. Meadows
BENJAMIN T. MEADOWS
LTC, Artillery
Commanding

CONFIDENTIAL

23

AVDF-AT (10 November 1967) 1st Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report- Lessons Learned (RCS-CSFOR-65) (U)

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY, HEADQUARTERS AMERICAL DIVISION ARTILLERY, APO San Francisco 96374, 11 November 1967

TO: Commanding General, Americal Division, ATTN: ACofS G3, APO San Francisco 96374

1. (U) Forwarded herewith are two (2) copies of subject report of the 3d Battalion, 18th Artillery.

2. (U) This headquarters concurs with the observations and recommendations contained in subject report.

3. (U) Reference Section III, paragraph 3b and d. The recommendations to limit non-artillery branch immaterial assignments for artillery Lieutenants and junior Captains are considered sound. Battery level leaders must have a thorough and current understanding of tube artillery gunnery techniques before assuming a position of responsibility in a combat environment with field artillery in Vietnam.

4. (U) Reference Section III, paragraph 3c and e. The duties and equipment of a chief of a heavy artillery section vary greatly from those of a light or medium section. Recommend that non-commissioned officers qualified in heavy and self-propelled artillery be given a separate MOS as suggested in basic report.

5. (U) Reference Section III, paragraph 4a. It is considered that experimentation to solve this fuze problem should be given highest priority.

6. (U) Reference Section III, paragraph 5a. Forward Supply Areas have been established in the past at a support base for ammunition resupply. This is done whenever feasible and a need exists for a particular type of ammunition. The comment in the battalion report refers to a temporary situation that has been since corrected.

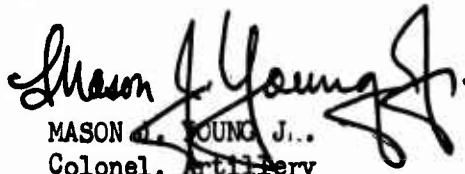
7. (U) Reference Section III, paragraph 5b. It has been determined that the problem of unavailability of repair parts is not due to the authorized stockage level in support maintenance units' ASL, but is rather caused by a shortage of items in the supply system.

AVDF-AT (10 November 1967)

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned (RCS-CSFOR-65) (U)

8. (U) Reference Section III, paragraph 7. A current shortage of interpreters exists within the division. ACofS GI has been informed by HQ, USMACV that interpreters will be assigned during November 1967.

9. (U) All other copies of subject report have been forwarded in accordance with Task Force Oregon Reg 1-19, dated 21 March 1967.


MASON J. YOUNG JR.
Colonel, Artillery
Commanding

1
73
AVDF-GC (10 Nov 67)

2d Ind

28 DEC 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned (RCS-CSFOR-65)(U)

DA, HQ, Americal Division, APO San Francisco 96374

TO: Commanding General, United States Army Vietnam, APO San Francisco
96375

1. (U) Forwarded herewith is the subject report of the 3d Battalion,
18th Artillery.

2. (U) This headquarters concurs with the observations and comments
of the basic report and 1st Indorsement.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

FW Cunningham 215
KAZUTO KAMAHATA
Capt.
Asst. Adjutant General

CONFIDENTIAL

AVHGC-DST (10 Nov 67) 3d Ind (C)
SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 October 1967,
Reports Control Symbol CSFOR-65

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96375 29 JAN 1968

TO: Commander in Chief, United States Army, Pacific, ATTN: GPOP-DT,
APO 96558

1. (U) This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the quarterly period ending 31 October 1967 from Headquarters, 3d Battalion, 18th Artillery (A1RA) as indorsed.

2. (C) Pertinent comments follow:

a. Reference item concerning company grade artillery officers being assigned to units in RVN, page 14, paragraph 3a; page 18, paragraph 3a; and 1st Indorsement, paragraph 3: Concur. The Field Artillery Officers Orientation Course conducted at Fort Sill, Oklahoma is designed to provide battalion level training for RVN bound officers. All company grade officers destined for field artillery assignments in Vietnam should be programmed to attend the four week course. Maintenance, fire planning and FDC procedures are stressed and slanted towards operations in Vietnam. The POI is continuously reviewed and updated to incorporate lessons learned in RVN.

b. Reference item concerning non-commissioned officers in MOS 13B4, page 15, paragraph 3b(1); page 18, paragraph 3c; and 1st Indorsement, paragraph 4: A program is presently in effect whereby units may annotate enlisted requisitions to request attendance of replacements, MOS 13B4, at the 8"-175mm Artillery Section Chief Course at Fort Sill enroute to Vietnam. In 1st Indorsement, paragraph 4, the Commanding Officer, Americal Division Artillery, expressly recommends a separate MOS to prescribe qualifications required in heavy and self-propelled Artillery. Such a recommendation will require specific comments from commanders in the field and evaluation at Department of the Army.

c. Reference item concerning premature functioning of point detonating (PD) fuzes, page 15, paragraph 4; and page 18, paragraph 4a: Non-concur in the stated policy of setting selective PD fuzes on delay. The decision concerning the super-quick or delay should in each case be made by the Commander based on the USARV letter, AVHGD-AM, Subject: Preferred Usage Limitations and Precautions; Artillery Fuzes, dated October 1967.

Downgraded at 3 year intervals
Declassified after 12 years
DOD DIR 5200.10

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27
AVHGC-DST (10 Nov 67)

3d Ind (C)

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 October 1967,
Reports Control Symbol CSFOR-65

d. Reference item concerning weaknesses in the M110 and M107 weapons systems, page 16, paragraph 4b; and page 18, paragraph 4b: Concur. This command is presently engaged in an Ad Hoc Product Improvement Program consisting of 44 modifications to the carriages. The selection of the modifications was largely dictated by unit experience. Faults such as those indicated are appropriate for submission under the Equipment Improvement Report Program.

e. Reference item concerning Ammunition Supply Points, page 16, paragraph 5a; and page 19, paragraph 5a.

(1) Concur with page 16, paragraph 5a. In anticipation of this possibility, additional assets were stocked in the Ammunition Supply Point (ASP) and Forward Support Area (FSA) providing support. Alternate means of resupply were also examined. Potential coves and bays along the coast were used to determine feasibility of employment. All precautions possible, within the resources available, have been taken to preclude critical shortages from developing.

(2) Nonconcur with page 19, paragraph 5a. The divisions have TO&E personnel and equipment to operate FSA's when on an operation. The 1st Logistical Command is responsible for delivery of material to designated supply points. On occasion the FSA is included in this delivery responsibility to support a given operation. This is done when Commanders feel the division capability is inadequate, and the 1st Logistical Command has the capability to provide the required support. Units are responsible for pick-up of ammunition from their supporting ASP. The ASP's are strategically located to provide a relatively short haul for the unit. In instances where this is not true, the 1st Logistical Command delivers to isolated units, utilizing its own transportation.

f. Reference item concerning minor replacement parts, page 16, paragraph 5b; and page 19, paragraph 5b: Nonconcur. The type items mentioned are stocked on a demand basis and as stated in 1st Indorsement, authorization is not a problem. The availability of such items in the supply system is considered to be adequate. The problem could be one of distribution, and may be limited to the period and unit covered by this report. The 1st Logistical Command has been requested to review the situation and take any corrective action required. In addition, it is suggested

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

78

AVHGC-DST (10 Nov 67)

3d Ind (C)

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 October 1967,
Reports Control Symbol CSFOR-65

that the unit review their supply procedures to insure all demands are properly recorded and requisitioning objectives are correctly computed.

3. (U) A copy of this indorsement will be furnished to the reporting unit through channels.

FOR THE COMMANDER:



C. S. NAKATSUKASA

Captain, AGC

Assistant Adjutant General

Copy Furnished:

HQ, 3d Bn, 18th Arty
HQ, Americal Div

CONFIDENTIAL

24

GPOP-DT(10 Nov 67) 4th Ind (U)
SUBJECT: Operational Report for the Quarterly Period Ending
31 Oct 67 from Hq, 3d Bn, 18th Arty
(UIC: WAIRAA) (RCS CSFOR-65)

HQ, US ARMY, PACIFIC, APO San Francisco 96558 27 FEB 1968

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development,
Department of the Army, Washington, D. C. 20310

This headquarters has evaluated subject report and
forwarding indorsements and concurs in the report as
indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:


K. F. OSBOURN
MAJ, AGC
Asst AG

UNCLASSIFIED

Security Classification

DOCUMENT CONTROL DATA - R & D

(Security classification of title, body of abstract and indexing annotation must be entered when the overall report is classified)

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27

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